

## Writing SWAT precipitation

Posted by azoller - 2009/06/24 18:36

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I am trying to write SWAT precipitation. I selected the gage and specified the Unweighted precipitation file, and then clicked write and received the following message:

```
FormSwatPrecipUniform.btnWrite_Click()  
    The path is not of a legal form.
```

Do you have any suggestions?

Thanks,

Amy

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## Re:Writing SWAT precipitation

Posted by isburns - 2009/06/27 21:41

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Interesting, I've never seen that before and I'm not even sure what it means. Did you have ArcCatalog open by chance? Can you reproduce the problem consistently? Is this the first time you've tried creating a precipitation file or have you been successful in the past?

Thanks  
Shea

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## Re:Writing SWAT precipitation

Posted by azoller - 2009/06/29 00:00

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Hmmm. I just tried it again and didn't get the error message. There is a file in the "precip" folder with a .pcp extension, and it is populated with data, so I guess it worked.

I can't remember if Catalog was open when I tried this last week....I hope not, I should know better, but who knows!

Now I am wondering if I even needed to write SWAT precipitation, or create those precipitation/temperature files based on the methods in the SWAT documentation, if I want to run the model using precipitation generated using the WGN theme.

My modeling goals are to find average annual N and P that is delivered to reservoirs under varied land cover scenarios. I will be modeling 10 - 15 watersheds. Would you suggest generating temperature and precip using the WGN theme, and if so, do I need to create separate temp and precip files?

Amy

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## Re:Writing SWAT precipitation

Posted by isburns - 2009/09/03 08:41

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Amy,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I didn't realize I'd let the backlog of help questions go for so long.

If you have observed precipitation and temperature data for your study area, I would recommend using that over the data generated from the WGN stations. It's also not a problem using observed for one and generated for the other.

shea

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## Re:Writing SWAT precipitation

Posted by azoller - 2009/09/03 17:21

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Yes. I've tried it 2 ways:

1. Observed precipitation with WGN temp
2. Simulated (from WGN) Precipitation with WGN temp

The results from #1 (observed temp) made a lot more sense. The results from #2 were pretty low (like there wasn't as much precip). I am modeling watersheds in Nebraska, and it snows here (obviously). The precip data I use is from the High Plains Regional Climate Center, and their data reflects precipitation that results from snowmelt. So, I am unsure if the WGN data accounts for snowmelt, but at any rate the results were better when I used observed precip data.

I am interested in long-term average annual values. My current technique is to model 15 years, and I create the precipitation file for the 15 years using the HPRCC data. Then I take the average annual output values from this. This technique has worked the best for me so far. Thanks!

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